

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /085 W
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R 052105Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6890

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 32960

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR FR, US

SUBJECT : FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO U.S. PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH PRESS HAS FOR THE MOST PART TAKEN
A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE ABOUT PRESIDENT ELECT CARTER.
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME FAVORABLE REACTIONS, ALBEIT CAU-
TIOUS, FROM JOURNALISTS OF THE LEFT OVER WHAT THEY PER-
CEIVE AS A SOFTER POSITION ON COMMUNISTS IN WEST EURO-
PEAN GOVERNMENTS. COMMENT COVERS SUCH QUESTIONS AS:
1) WHAT CHANGED TO EXPECT IN US FOREIGN POLICY; 2) THE
PORTENDING DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER; 3)THE WORLD
MONETARY PICTURE; 4) THE U.S. ECONOMY; AND 5) THE
FUTURE OF CONCORDE, WHICH IS REGARDED AS A TEST OF
FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND WHERE CARTER IS SEEN AS
ADOPTING A TOUGH ANTI-CONCORDE LINE. END SUMMARY

1) MOST COMMENTATORS AGREE THAT CHANGES IN U.S. FOREIGN
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POLICY WILL IN THE MAIN BE CHANGES IN STYLE AND WILL

DEPEND ON WHOM CARTER WILL CHOOSE AS ADVISERS AND AS HIS SECSTATE. SOME WARN AGAINST A TOO ETHICAL APPROACH TO POLITICS. ONE COMMENTATOR HOPES WE WILL NOT BECOME NOSTALGIC FOR NIXON AND HIS DIRTY TRICKS. THE BUSINESS DAILY LES ECHOS SUGGESTS THAT MR. CARTER'S MORAL INCLINATIONS MIGHT BE USEFUL TO BREAK THE PRESENT DEADLOCK AT THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE. JIMMY CARTER, IT SAID "WANTS TO GIVE THE WORLD -- ESPECIALLY THE THIRD WORLD -- THE IMAGE OF A GENEROUS AMERICA. HE WILL PROBABLY TRY NOT TO DISAPPOINT THE HOPES PLACED ON HIM. HE WILL PERHAPS BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO CREATE THE EVENT THAT WILL UNBLOCK THE NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE THE INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS LARGELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENT DEADLOCK."

2) HENRY KISSINGER, RAYMOND ARON SAID IN FIGARO, "HAS MARKED WITH HIS SEAL THE DIPLOMACY OF THE /UNITED STATES OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS. HIS DEPARTURE CREATES A VACUUM AND GIVES RISE TO SECRET ANXIETY. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ESTABLISH A FAIR RECORD FOR A REIGN MARKED IN TERMS BY SPECTACULAR SUCCESSES, OF WHICH HE APPEARED TO BE THE ARCHITECT, AND BY FAILURES WHICH COULD BE ASCRIBED TO CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE PRESTIGE OF THE MAN AND THE AMBIGUITY OF HIS WORK CAN BE EXPLAINED FAIRLY EASILY. HENRY KISSINGER HAS GOT A CLEAR, ARTICULATE CAPACITY FOR EXPRESSION, RARE AMONG THE AMERICANS EVEN IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES AND EVEN MORE STRIKING AMONG THE AIDES OF NIXON AND FORD: HE SOMETIMES SEEMED FALLEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET. ONLY JAMES SCHLESINGER ATTAINED A COMPARABLE INTELLECTUAL LEVEL."

3) 'OR THE WORLD MONETARY PICTURE' FORMER PRIME MINISTER MAURICE COUVE DE MURVILLE FOR EXAMPLE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ON EUROPE ONE RADIO NOVEMBER 3: "THERE IS NO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY MAJOR CHANGE.
CAN ANYONE IMAGINE THAT CARTER WILL CHANGE THE NONETARY
POLICY WHICH THE /U.S. HAS CONDUCTED FOR YEARS, A POLICY
WHICH LED TO GOLD DEMORETIZATION. THE FLOTATION OF ALL
CURRENCIES ANDTHE DOMINATION, NOW UNCHALLENGED' OF
THE DOLLAR OVER THE WHOLE WEST? I DON'T BELIEVE THERE
WILL BE ARY CHANGE, AND THUS ANY MONETARY REFORM CREAT-
ING BETTER PROSPECTS OF RECOVERY FROM THE RECESSION."

SIMILAR VIEWS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED IN THE PRESS.

4) CONCERNINQ THE IMPACT OF THE ELECTION ON THE
U.S. ECONOMY, COMMENTATOR GENERALLY EXPECT MR. CARTER
TO GIVE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT PRIORITY OVER
THE ANTI-INFLATION STRUOQLE.

5) THE FRENCH NRESS ATTRIBUTES TO THE PRESIDENT
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ELECT A CAMPAIGN STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD BAN CONCORDE
FLIGHTS TO THE U.S. IF ELECTED. THIS QUESTION IS PRO.
BAHLY THE MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION WITH HIM IN THE
FRENCH PRESS.

6) IN GENERAL' FRENCH OBSERVERS VIEW THE NEW ADMIN-
ISTRATION WITH THE SAME AMBIVALENCE SHOWN TOWARD THE
CURRENT ADMINISTRATOR. ON THE ONE HAND THERE IS CONCERN
THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MAY BE TOO INTROSPECTIVE
TO THE DETRIMENT OF AMERICA'S WORLD ROLE. ON THE OTHER
HAND, THERE IS CONCERN THAT THE TYPE OF INTERNATIONAL

LEADERSHIP DEMONSTRATED BY THE REW ADMINISTRATION MAY
BE TOO AGGORESSIVE IN DEALING WITH BOTH ALLIES AND ADVER
SARIES. THIS IS A SCHISOPHRENIC VIEW OF THE UNITED STA-
TES WHICH TENDS TO TRANSCEND ADMINISTRATIONS.
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